

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Jean-Pierre Hermet et al.  
Serial No. :  
Filed :  
PCT NO. : PCT/FR2004/001515  
IFD : JUNE 17, 2004  
TC/A.U. :  
Confirmation No:  
Examiner :

Docket No. : 05-825  
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In the above-identified application for United States patent,  
please amend as follows.

**Amendments to the specification** are reflected in the attached  
substitute specification with markings and the clean version.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims  
which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on Page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 7 of this paper.